

Note: The following document is adopted from the AP U.S. History College Board Examples

United States History
Section II
Total Time – 1 hour, 30 minutes

Question 1 (Document-Based Question)

Suggested reading period: 15 minutes

Suggested writing period: 40 minutes

This question is based on the accompanying documents. The documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise.

In your response you should do the following:

- **Thesis:** Present a thesis that makes a historically defensible claim and responds to all parts of the question. The thesis must consist of one or more sentences located in one place, either in the introduction or in the conclusion.
- **Argument Development:** Develop and support a cohesive argument that recognizes and accounts for historical complexity by explicitly illustrating relationships among historical evidence such as contradiction, corroboration, and/or qualification.
- **Use of Documents:** Utilize the content of at least six documents to support the stated thesis or a relevant argument.
- **Sourcing the Documents:** Explain the significance of the author's point of view, author's purpose, historical context, and/or audience for at least four documents.
- **Contextualization:** Situate the argument by explaining the broader historical events, developments, or processes immediately relevant to the question.
- **Outside Evidence:** Provide an example or additional piece of specific evidence beyond those found in the documents to support or qualify the argument.
- **Synthesis:** Extend the argument by explaining the connections between the argument and one of the following:
 - A development in a different historical period, situation, era, or geographical area.
 - A course theme and/or approach to history that is not the focus of the essay (such as political, economic, social, cultural, or intellectual history).

1. How did President Carter's actions to resolve the Iran Hostage Crisis align with executive powers as outlined in Article II of the U.S. Constitution?

Background Information

The summary below is for background information. Analysis of it is not required and will not count toward the required documents.

When Jimmy Carter became President in 1977, the United States had provided political support and military assistance to the government of the shah of Iran for nearly three decades. In return, Iran provided oil to the industrial West and served as a buffer between the Soviet Union and other oil-producing nations of the Persian Gulf. The United States had a stake in keeping it stable and independent, but the shah was feeling the consequences of years of brutal and unpopular policies. His control of Iran was being threatened by a political and religious activist, the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who opposed the shah's efforts of modernization and Westernization.

In January 1979, the shah fled into exile, and the theocratic regime of Khomeini took power. The Carter administration made efforts to establish diplomatic relations with the new government but was met by resistance. Negotiations deteriorated in October 1979 when Carter, citing "humanitarian principle," permitted the shah to enter the U.S. for cancer treatment. Though deeply opposed to this U.S. move, the new Iranian prime minister gave assurances that their government would protect the safety of U.S. diplomatic personnel in Iran.

On November 4, 1979 more than 3,000 students overran and occupied the American embassy in Tehran, initially taking 66 U.S. diplomatic and military personnel as hostages; 52 would ultimately be held. Opposing this action, the Iranian prime minister resigned in protest, consolidating Khomeini's control of the government. The students demanded a return of the shah in exchange for the hostages. In April 1980, after months of negotiations failed to result in the release of the hostages, the United States broke off diplomatic relations with Iran.

By 1980, Carter's staff lamented there were "Two White Houses," one handling the Iran Hostage Crisis and the other consumed with everything else. That year, Carter approved a hostage rescue mission, but it failed, and the crisis continued as he campaigned for re-election. The government of Iran, now involved in a war with neighboring Iraq, was desperate for money and seemed willing to release the hostages. After losing his bid for re-election, Carter worked tirelessly up until the day of Ronald Reagan's Inauguration ceremony on January 20 to secure their release. That morning Carter announced that the United States and Iran had reached an agreement. At 12:33 pm, the first plane carrying hostages took off from Tehran, with the second leaving nine minutes later. The Hostage Crisis in Iran concluded after 444 days.

Document 1

Source description: Article II, Section 2 of the United States Constitution outlining powers of the Executive Branch (National Archives Identifier: [1667751](#))

Article II, Section 2

The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States, when called into the actual Service of the United States; he may require the Opinion, in writing, of the principal Officer in each of the executive Departments, upon any Subject relating to the Duties of their respective Offices, and he shall have Power to grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offences against the United States, except in Cases of Impeachment.

He shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States, whose Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by Law: but the Congress may by Law vest the Appointment of such inferior Officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the Courts of Law, or in the Heads of Departments.

Document 2

Source description: Situation in Iran from the Records of Interdepartmental and Intradepartmental Committees, 11/4/1979 (National Archives Identifier: [40492561](#))

DECLASSIFIED NND 81205 by MP/MAS 12/15/2015	SECRET
DEPARTMENT OF STATE Operations Center	
Iran Informal Working Group Sitrep No. 1	
DIST:	Situation in Iran as of 0700 EST November 4, 1979
S C E M C E S/S S/S-O(2) S/S-S PM INR PA/HO IO UNA M/CT CA(3) AID OC SY HA ICA PA L H NEA(10) EUR EA EB MILREP EDITOR WH(LDX) DOD(LDX) CIA(LDX) NSA(LDX) DOE(LDX) TREAS(LDX) ACDA M/MO(2) S/P	<p>At about 0345 EST (Noon Tehran time) the American Embassy compound in Tehran was overrun by about 3,000 demonstrators. The demonstrators inside the compound are unarmed, in their early twenties. They may be a mixture of students and members of the Islamic guerilla group Mujahedin Khalg. The demonstrators first penetrated the Chancery building through a basement window and then proceeded to occupy the ground floor of the Chancery. The demonstrators in the early stages of the incursion took hostage four Marine Security Guards and the Embassy Security Officer. Our Charge and Political Counselor happened to be at the Foreign Ministry at the time of the attack. They and the Embassy contacted the Prime Minister's Office and were promised that Iranian security forces would be sent to the rescue. No help came, and the Embassy after an hour's siege, including attempts to set the building on fire and the use of a torch to try to cut through the up-stairs steel doors, found it necessary to let the demonstrators in on the upper floor.</p> <p>At that time there were about 80 Embassy employees, American and Iranian in the Chancery. Another group of employees was under seige in the Consular Section, a separate building on the compound. When the demonstrators entered the second floor of the Chancery, the Embassy employees were led out. 11 Americans remained in the Communications vault but have subsequently surrendered. Current reports indicate that all of the hostages are being kept within the compound.</p> <p>Charge Laingen is now in Foreign Minister Yazdi's office. Yazdi indicated they are attempting to despatch Ayatollah Behesti to the compound to speak with the demonstrators. The Embassy compound is surrounded by unidentified security forces.</p> <p>Two people from the Foreign Office have been sent to the compound to get in touch with the demonstrators.</p>

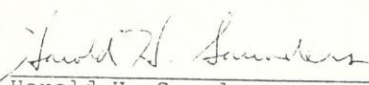
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At this time, there are no reports of any injuries to Americans. The British Embassy in Tehran reports that a news bulletin has been issued indicating all Americans are safe. The bulletin also urged other students not to join the demonstration.

The occupying students have issued a statement demanding the extradition of the former Shah. The statement described the occupation as a protest against the conspiracies of imperialism and Zionism. The students called on other student groups not to try to enter the compound.


Harold H. Saunders
Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Near Eastern and
South Asian Affairs


Robert S. Steven
Senior Watch Officer

Document 3

Source description: Department of State Briefing Memorandum providing an update on the Hostage Crisis in Iran, 11/17/1979 (National Archives Identifier: [23902373](#))

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Document 4

Source description: Excerpt from Executive Order 12170 signed by Jimmy Carter on November 14, 1979 ([Federal Register](#))

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 12170

Nov. 14, 1979, 44 F.R. 65729

BLOCKING IRANIAN GOVERNMENT PROPERTY

Pursuant to the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and laws of the United States including the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C.A. sec. 1701 et seq. [this chapter], the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. sec. 1601 et seq. [section 1601 et seq. of this title], and 3 U.S.C. sec. 301 [section 301 of Title 3, The President].

I, JIMMY CARTER, President of the United States, find that the situation in Iran constitutes an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy and economy of the United States and hereby declare a national emergency to deal with that threat.

I hereby order blocked all property and interests in property of the Government of Iran, its instrumentalities and controlled entities and the Central Bank of Iran which are or become subject to the jurisdiction of the United States or which are in or come within the possession or control of persons subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

The Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to employ all powers granted to me by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act [this chapter] to carry out the provisions of this order.

This order is effective immediately and shall be transmitted to the Congress and published in the Federal Register.

JIMMY CARTER

Document 5

Source description: President Jimmy Carter's Annotated Statement on the Failed Rescue Mission Regarding the Hostages in Iran, 4/25/1980 (National Archives Identifier: [593298](#))

ANNOUNCEMENT/RESCUE MISSION TERMINATION 4/25/80 (ORIGINAL SOURCE TEXT)

1. LATE YESTERDAY I CANCELLED A CAREFULLY PLANNED OPERATION
2. WHICH WAS UNDERWAY IN IRAN TO POSITION OUR TEAM
3. FOR A ^{LATER} RESCUE OF THE AMERICAN HOSTAGES
4. WHO HAVE BEEN HELD CAPTIVE THERE SINCE NOVEMBER 4.
5. EQUIPMENT FAILURE IN THE RESCUE HELICOPTERS
6. MADE IT NECESSARY TO END THE MISSION.
7. AS OUR TEAM WAS WITHDRAWING,
8. TWO OF OUR AIRCRAFT COLLIDED ON THE GROUND
IN A REMOTE DESERT LOCATION IN IRAN. (RE FUELING)
9. THERE WAS NO FIGHTING & NO COMBAT. OTHER INFO WHEN APPROPRIATE
10. BUT TO MY DEEP REGRET, 8 OF THE CREWMEN ON THE 2 AIRCRAFT WERE KILLED,
11. AND SEVERAL OTHER AMERICANS WERE HURT IN THE ACCIDENT.
12. OUR PEOPLE WERE IMMEDIATELY AIRLIFTED OUT OF IRAN.
13. THOSE WHO WERE INJURED ARE GETTING MEDICAL TREATMENT,
14. AND ALL OF THEM ARE EXPECTED TO RECOVER.

NO ^{KNOWLEDGE} DETECTION BY IRANIAN AUTHORITIES
UNTIL SEVERAL HOURS AFTER
WITHDRAWAL.

Document 6

Source description: Text of Khomeini's Message on Hostage Situation, 3/10/1980 (National Archives Identifier: [6116636](#))

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TEXT OF KHOMEYNI'S MESSAGE ON HOSTAGE SITUATION

LD101200 TEHRAN DOMESTIC SERVICE IN PERSIAN 1036 GMT 10 MAR 80 LD

(TEXT) FOLLOWING THE JOINT SESSION OF THE REVOLUTION COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, WHICH TOOK PLACE THIS MORNING IN THE PRESENCE OF IMAM KHOMEYNI AT HIS TEMPORARY RESIDENCE, THE LEADER OF THE REVOLUTION ADDRESSED AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO THE IRANIAN NATION.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE U.S. HOSTAGES OF THE FORMER U.S. EMBASSY, THE LEADER OF THE REVOLUTION ADDRESSED A MESSAGE TO THE IRANIAN NATION AS FOLLOWS:

IN THE NAME OF GOD, THE MERCIFUL, THE COMPASSIONATE, NOBLE AND STRUGGLING NATION OF IRAN. CRIMES COMMITTED BY THE SHAH AND THE UNITED STATES NEED NO PROOF. THE SHAH AND THE UNITED STATES MADE US DEPENDENT IN ALL FIELDS. MURDER, VILIFICATION, IMPRISONMENT AND EXILE WERE COMMON PRACTICE FOR THESE CRIMINALS. WE SHALL FIGHT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO THE END OF OUR LIVES. WE SHALL NOT REST UNTIL WE PUT THE UNITED STATES IN ITS PLACE, CUT OFF ITS HANDS FROM THE REGION, HELP ALL LIBERATION FIGHTERS TO DEFEAT IT AND ENABLE THE IRANIAN PEOPLE TO TAKE OVER THEIR OWN DESTINY.

TO US THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE AGGRESSIVE EAST AND THE CRIMINAL WEST. WE SHALL FIGHT AND, AS JUSTICE SHALL PREVAIL, WE SHALL TRIUMPH. U.S. DOMINATION ENTAILS CALAMITY FOR ALL THE OPPRESSED NATIONS. THE AGGRESSION COMMITTED BY THE AGGRESSIVE EAST HAS DISGRACE HISTORY.

DEAR IRANIAN NATION: BEWARE, AS WE HAVE LONG YEARS OF STRUGGLE AHEAD OF US. TO DESTROY YOU, THE SUPERPOWERS ARE ENGAGED DAILY IN PLOTS. THE DEVIL'S MISCHIEF HARMS THE OPPRESSED. (PREVIOUS SENTENCE IN ARABIC--FBIS) THE QUESTION RAISED NOWADAYS IS THE UNITED STATES AND THE AMERICAN HOSTAGES AND SPIES WHO ARE HELD BY THE MUSLIM AND STRUGGLING STUDENTS. IN THIS CONNECTION I SHALL MAKE A FEW POINTS*

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1. COPIES OF Approved For Release 2005/01/30 : NLC-6-31-2-2-7
GOVERNMENT AND THE SHAH. THESE COPIES ARE
AVAILABLE TO THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE CRIMES
COMMITTED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND THE SHAH. AS FOR
THE MUSLIM STUDENTS, IF THEY TOO HAVE ANY EVIDENCE, THEN
THEY SHOULD PROVIDE COPIES TO THE COMMISSION.

2. THE MEETING WITH THE HOSTAGES INVOLVED IN
(COMPILING--FBIS) THE DOSSIER ON THE CRIMES COMMITTED
BY THE SHAH AND THE UNITED STATES CAN TAKE PLACE FOR THE
PURPOSE OF THEIR INTERROGATION.

3. IF THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ANNOUNCES ITS VIEWS
IN TEHRAN ABOUT THE CRIMES COMMITTED BY THE OUSTED SHAH
AND THE INTERFERENCES BY THE AGGRESSIVE UNITED
STATES, THEN A MEETING WITH THE HOSTAGES (AS HEARD)
CAN TAKE PLACE.

ONCE AGAIN I DECLARE MY SUPPORT FOR THE REVOLUTION
COUNCIL AND HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT AND CALL ON
EVERYONE TO HELP THEM AND SPARE NO EFFORTS IN SUPPORTING
THEM. I WANT ALL STRATA TO FOLLOW THE PRAISEWORTHY
ISLAMIC ETHICS AND SAFEGUARD FRATERNAL RIGHTS.

MY DEAR SISTERS AND BROTHERS: TODAY IS THE DAY OF
UNITY AND UNANIMITY; TODAY IS THE DAY WHEN, IF YOU
FAIL IN YOUR UNITY, THEN YOU WILL BE TRAPPED EITHER
BY THE EAST OR THE WEST. NEVER ADHERE TO A SINGLE IDEA;
DO WHATEVER SERVES THE INTEREST OF THIS LAND THE
ISLAMIC NATION. THE MOVEMENT OF THE NOBLE NATION OF
IRAN CONTINUES TO CUT OFF THE HANDS OF THE ENEMIES.
SO LONG AS THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER SUPERPOWERS
CONTINUE WITH THEIR OPPRESSION AND CRIMES, OUR NATION
TOO WILL CONTINUE ITS CONFRONTATION AND STRUGGLE AGAINST
THEM, WHILE SAFEGUARDING ITS COMPREHENSIVE INDEPENDENCE
WITH ALL ITS MIGHT.

IT IS UP TO THE INTELLECTUALS TO INCREASE THEIR
EFFORTS IN EXPOSING THE SUPERPOWERS AND POWERS. I HOPE THAT
KHOMEYNI WILL NEVER DEVIATE FROM THE STRAIGHT PATH
OF ISLAM, WHICH IS FIGHTING AGAINST THE OPPRESSIVE
POWERS, AND WILL NEVER REST IN REALIZING ISLAMIC
GOALS; AS I HOPE OUR MUSLIMS, ESPECIALLY THE STRUGGLING
IRANIAN NATION, WILL ENDEAVOR TOWARD ACHIEVING THIS
ISLAMIC GOAL AND CONTINUE THEIR STRUGGLE AGAINST THE
OPPRESSORS OF THE EAST AND WEST.

I PRAY TO GOD ALMIGHTY FOR THE VICTORY OF ISLAM AND THE
MUSLIMS. GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

(SIGNED) RUHOLLAH MOSAVI KHOMEYNI; 10 MARCH 1980.

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